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+91-90000 36699 / 90000 66690

Email: info@sosinclasses.com

H.No. 1-10-196

Ashok Nagar X Road, Hyderabad

Telangana 500020.

DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

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FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
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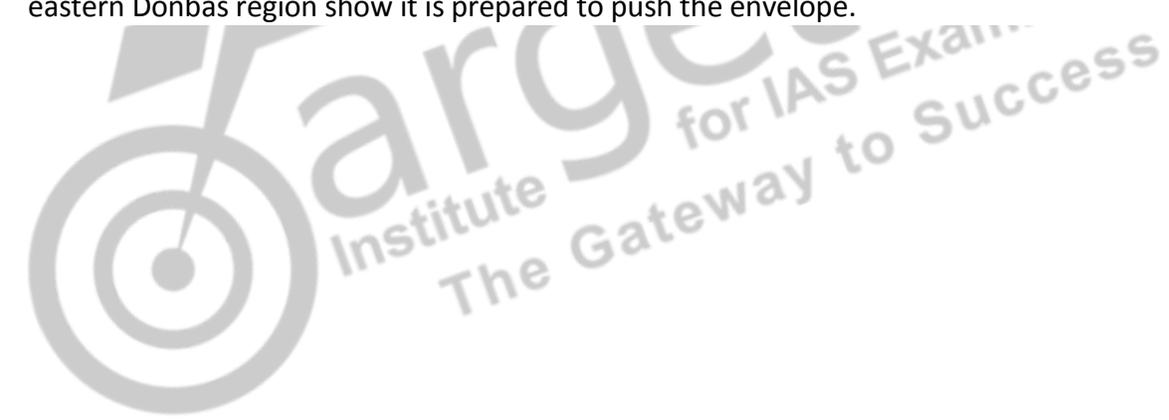
ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Why was the Germany's sacked navy chief right when he said the biggest threat is China, not Russia?

BACKGROUND = Germany's navy chief, Vice-admiral Kay-Achim Schoenbach, has had to resign for comments he made at an event in India. With tensions once again rising between Ukraine and Russia, Schoenbach had said that Kiev would not regain the Crimean Peninsula Moscow had seized in 2014.

- In recent weeks Russia has amassed around 1 lakh troops along the Ukrainian border as part of what it says are winter exercises.
- Ukraine and the West fear this is preparation for a full-scale Russian invasion.
- Both the US and UK have pulled out some of their embassy staff and their dependants in Ukraine.
- Moscow has long objected to Nato's eastward expansion and sees any moves to include Ukraine in the bloc as a red flag. Its seizure of Crimea and support for rebels in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region show it is prepared to push the envelope.





1 Ukrainian authorities estimate that up to **40,000** troops are stationed near **Voronezh**, where a staging area has been established, equipped with a long-range communications complex and a field hospital.

2 Another **40,000** troops are estimated to be deployed in **Crimea**.

3 According to a May 2020 report by the Ukrainian government, 40,100 Ukrainian troops, including regular and National Guard units, are deployed in the Donbas, around the so-called "line of contact."

4 Large quantities of military equipment were seen in the **Rostov** region. It's unclear if they were being positioned in Rostov, or in transit to Crimea or other locations.

5 Independent open-source intelligence revealed that the 56th Air Assault Brigade is being deployed in **Feodosia**. The Russian Defense Ministry earlier had announced the brigade would be relocated to Crimea before the end of 2021.

6 The Russian Defense Ministry announced the **Black Sea Fleet** would be reinforced with 15 ships, including landing craft, armed corvettes, and support ships.



C. Coelho | Sources: Media reports, Janes, CIT, Russian Defense Ministry, Ukrainian government.

While helping Ukraine defend its borders is necessary, provoking Russia into a confrontation will be counterproductive for Nato. Russia has enough military depth to seriously complicate security dynamics in Europe. Plus, it provides Europe with more than 40% of its natural gas supply. This supply can get severely disrupted in the event of conflict, pushing European economies into turmoil. **Therefore, Nato needs to adopt a sophisticated strategy to deal with Russia at this juncture.** Given this, Schoenbach's analysis that it is important to have Russia on the same side against China is a pragmatic one.

For, China with its vast economic and technological prowess is the biggest threat to the global order.

1. The Nato summit communique of June 2021 had specifically identified China as a systemic challenge to the rules-based international system.
2. Hence, if Nato were to get bogged down in a conflict with Russia, it would take away from international efforts needed to push back against an alarmingly aggressive China.
3. Despite what strongmen like Putin may want to believe Russia, minus its military capability and its forays into alleged dodgy cyber interference in other nations' affairs, isn't a big enough power to seriously disrupt the world.
4. The country is facing de-population, and without a substantive economy – it primarily relies on military and energy exports – its ability to influence matters are limited.
5. A conflict started by Russia also hurts Russia. And its alleged cyber interference may hurt rivals but Moscow mostly gains more mistrust. But teamed with China, Russia can be a serious disruptor and further Beijing's interests.
6. Thus, a better approach will be to work out a modus vivendi with Russia in Europe and drive a wedge between Moscow and Beijing. Nato needs to play smart here.

GS 1

❖ Indian Society

Q- Give a case study of how Indian Law has evolved keeping Indian heterogeneous culture and traditions in mind?

BACKGROUND = For over a month, seven students of a government college in Udupi, Karnataka, have not been allowed to attend classes because they wear the hijab. The college authorities argue that wearing head-scarves violates the dress code, even though the young women turned up for classes in the college uniform.

- The Karnataka education minister has called it an act of "indiscipline", arguing that there is no place for religion in an educational institution.

- The principal of the college has said that “uniformity” does not allow him to make exceptions.

Both are flimsy arguments given the penalty they wish to justify — shutting the doors of education to students. They are particularly indefensible given how both Indian law and cultural common sense deal with the diversity of religious expression.



1. The Constitution guarantees citizens the fundamental right to practise their religion, which can be curtailed only if it violates public order or demands of public health or morality.
2. The Kerala High Court in 2016 had allowed students to take an all-India medical entrance test while wearing the hijab on the grounds that it was an “essential part” of the petitioners’ religious practice.
3. The everyday secularism practised in the country is largely unperturbed by the multiplicity of religious symbols; rare is the school or college that does not celebrate multiple religious festivals or sees, say, a Sikh boy in a turban or sacred threads on the wrist of another student as defiance of discipline.
4. In this, Indian social life is far from the rigidity of western ideas of secularism such as France’s laicite, which insists on a monotone uniformity in public life.
5. It is important to see the disproportionate reaction to hijab in a classroom in the context of the disturbing tide of attacks against minorities in Karnataka by emboldened Hindutva vigilantes, from raids on churches to the targeting of Muslim men in inter-faith relationships. The assertion of a violent majoritarianism draws oxygen from the government’s divisive laws on cow slaughter, inter-faith marriage and conversion. The binding of the state, closer and closer, to an identification with the majority religion spills over into the social sphere, leading to demands for the public sphere to be purged of all markers of Muslim identity. To argue that discouraging the practice of hijab, in this instance, is a feminist act is duplicitous.

Conclusion -

Such conversations are possible in an atmosphere of trust and equality, when all religions are open to the critique of reason, not when minority faiths are being daily demonised. It is discrimination that violates the law of the land. The Udupi government college must desist in conspiring in such violation, and allow the girls back into the classroom.

GS 3

❖ Security

Q- Comment on the Terrorist Infiltration at the border and measures taken by the Border Security Force to counter act?

BACKGROUND = The Border Security Force (BSF) said more than 100 terrorists were present at launch pads across the border, waiting to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir.

- It added that the overall situation along the Line of Control has been peaceful since the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan in 2021.
- However, there are reports that around 104 to 135 terrorist are present at launching pads waiting to infiltrate [into J&K].
- A heightened vigil was being maintained after a few local guides crossed the LoC. The job of these guides is to bring groups of militants along. We have seen how our alert troops spot them and neutralise, as one such infiltrator was killed on January 2 [in north Kashmir].
- The infiltration along the LoC was showing a downward trend. “From 130 infiltration bids in 2019, it came down to 36 bids in 2020 and 31 in 2021.
- However, there were inputs that 138-145 youth were last year indoctrinated to join militant outfits.

<p>steppeq nb Kashmir as violence been able to enter Afghan fighters had 1990s when different from the  the LOC is very gnao noitatu!</p>	<p>descending into a civil war like situation to be focused internally as the nation is Afghan fighters and terror outfits are likely sudden influx of fighters: Officials deterrence that wouldn't allow a bid and the LOC fence are a bid  A strong counter infiltration</p>
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NO IMMEDIATE DANGER

- The BSF is manning 343.9 km of the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir. “Out of 343 km, 96 km is being guarded exclusively by the BSF. Also, 52 companies were being deputed in Kashmir Valley.
- The security forces were having “successful results” due to the new synergy between the security agencies in Kashmir. Stating that drones were a “real threat”, the BSF is procuring its own drones to counter the drone threat. Besides, a series of measures are in place to deal with drone threats.

❖ Economic Development

Q- Discuss the prospects of Electronics Manufacturing in India, keeping the pandemic in mind?

BACKGROUND = Given the ‘unforeseen and unprecedented’ challenges brought by the pandemic, India is likely to achieve electronics production of \$300 billion by 2026, lower than the target of \$400 billion by 2025 set as per the National Policy on Electronics (NPE) 2019.

- The document was released by Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) in association with the India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA).
- However, the reduced target still aims for a 400% increase from the current level, the document noted, adding that electronics manufacturing had grown from \$37.1 billion in 2015-16 to \$67.3 billion in 2020-21
- There are **various challenges** being faced by the industry across qualitative (non-tariff, infrastructure related) and quantitative (tariff, free trade agreements etc.) aspects and need to be addressed in toto to ensure that manufacturing in India is resilient, globally competitive and able to undertake operations at massive scale.



Q- Consider the following statements about Prarthana Samaj established in 1867:

1. It was founded by Atmaram Pandurang.
2. It had an aim to make people believe in one God.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2



Q- In the context of Indian history, the term Macaulay's Minutes is related to:

- a. Consolidating and amending the law relating to arms and ammunition.
- b. Promoting English education in India.
- c. Control and regulate the vernacular press in India.
- d. Promotion of oriental learning in India.

Answer: b

Thomas Babington Macaulay in his Macaulay's Minute on Education came up with an idea that English education is not just superior in 'science', but would also inculcate superior morals, etc. among Indians. He therefore introduced the Macaulay's minute or the English Education Act of 1835. The decision was to make English the medium of instruction for higher education, and to stop the promotion of Oriental institutions like the Calcutta Madrasa and Benaras Sanskrit College. Hence, option (b) is correct.

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